



Office of Agricultural Education
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New Jersey Department of Education
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MEMO

September 5, 2006

To: 79th National FFA Convention Attendees

From: Robin C. McLean, State FFA Specialist

Re: 79th National FFA Convention Details

The 79th Annual National FFA Convention will be held in Indianapolis, IN from October 25-28, 2006. By now, you should have received the "Second Edition of the Advisor's Planning Guide" to help you prepare for this event. This memo highlights several items you should be aware of. Information is also available at <http://www.ffa.org/convention/index.html> I encourage you to use this resource as you prepare for convention.

Participant Lists, Advisor Statement of Assurances, and Student Codes of Conduct

If you have not submitted your Participant List, Student Codes of Conduct, and the Advisor Statement of Assurances, please submit them to the Office of Agricultural Education immediately. These materials can be downloaded from <http://www.jerseyageducation.nj.gov/NatlConvPartForm.xls>. The participant list can be sent via e-mail to ag.ed.registration@ag.state.nj.us. The Advisor Statement of Assurances and Student Codes of Conduct can be faxed to 609-633-2421 or mailed.

National FFA Convention New Jersey Room Block

We have submitted the rooming list for the New Jersey FFA delegation at the **Marriott Indianapolis East**, 7202 East 21st Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46219. Their phone number is (317) 352- 1231. **Room rates for the Marriott Indianapolis East per day are \$131.00 plus 15% tax.** FFA Chapters are not eligible for tax exemption in the state of Indiana. The final room payment will be due directly to the hotel upon arrival/departure from the hotel. The Marriott Indianapolis East will accept a school purchase order, if the paperwork is prepared in advance. The hotel's website is <http://marriott.com/property/propertypage/INDDT>

Our Marriott Indianapolis East contact is Diana Baldwin. *You will need to contact her at 317-352-1231 ext. 11164 or Dbbaldwin@indymarriott.com to get the balance of your hotel expenses for the week, confirm your arrival and departure dates and identify any special room needs.*

If you have not submitted the \$50 fee per room to the Office of Agricultural Education, please do so immediately. Checks should be made payable to: Treasurer, State of NJ and indicate "FFA Room Deposit" in the memo section.

2006 National FFA Convention Indianapolis Housing Incentive*(as per National FFA Organization)*

“The registration fee for the 2006 National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN, has been set by the FFA Board of Directors at \$30 per person for those using the Indianapolis housing block. For those not using the official Indianapolis housing block, however, the standard \$40 registration fee will apply. The \$40 fee will also apply to those who drive in locally to the convention.”

If you are not in the New Jersey Room Block, you can request rooms through the National FFA Chapter Housing Block by September 25, 2006. Information is available at http://www.ffa.org/indymove/html/move_housing.htm

Courtesy Corps

The National FFA Convention Courtesy Corps assists convention staff in all activities of the National FFA Convention. National FFA has extended the deadline for accepting courtesy corps applications. Find out more about what Courtesy Corps does at http://www.ffa.org/convention/html/pln_courtesycorps.html **If you have members who are interested and have not yet submitted the “Courtesy Corps Application”** (http://www.ffa.org/statestaff/documents/cc_app.pdf) **and “Courtesy Corps Code of Ethics”** (http://www.ffa.org/statestaff/documents/cc_codeofethics.pdf), please fax the signed forms to the Office of Agricultural Education by Thursday, September 14, 2006.

Pre-registration for Convention

Pre-registration is open and will be accepted until October 11. There are two ways to register for National Convention:

1. The National FFA Online registration system
 - a. Directions are available at http://www.ffa.org/convention/html/pln_registration_info.htm
 - b. You need to have a myFFA account
 - c. This is the only way to register for National Day of Service Activities and Career Success Tours
2. By mailing or faxing the Official Pre-registration form - http://www.ffa.org/convention/documents/conv_registration.pdf.

Be sure to include housing and emergency contact information on your registration.

Tickets and convention buttons will be shipped to you via UPS and should be received by October 19, 2006.

State Suite

The State Association Suite (New Jersey 63) is partially sponsored by the New Jersey FFA Alumni. Tentative receptions are planned throughout convention for New Jersey’s award winners. Additional suite information will be provided at a later date.

State Photo

New Jersey’s state photo will occur at **1:00 pm on Friday, Oct. 27** in the RCA Dome adjacent to the Food Court. Hope to see you there!

State Booth

The New Jersey FFA Association will have a booth in the Hall of States at the Career Show highlighting agricultural careers in New Jersey and how FFA prepares students for career success. Eric Hilgendorff, State FFA Treasurer, and Matt Hood, Executive Committee Member will be coordinating the booth.

We encourage chapter members to participate in staffing the booth with the State FFA Officers during convention. Please send an e-mail to robin.mclean@ag.state.nj.us by October 1, indicating the member's name, available date(s) and available time frame(s). Career show hours are:

- ~~///~~ Wednesday, October 25- 12:30pm – 6:00 pm
- ~~///~~ Thursday, October 26 – 8:00 am – 6:00 pm
- ~~///~~ Friday, October 27 – 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

I will provide a staffing schedule to chapters prior to convention. Members who staff the booth will need to be in official dress and participate in a training session prior to working in the booth. This is a great opportunity for members to practice their public speaking skills and share their FFA experiences with others.

Transportation and Parking

Ground and air transportation arrangements should be made by individual chapters to meet your needs and to take full advantage of low cost travel and most convenient arrival and departure locations. An FFA member will not travel to the National Convention without his/her FFA advisor, who is responsible for members at all times.

FFA has secured parking spaces for convention attendees. **You can purchase prepaid parking passes through online convention registration.**

- ?? Passes will provide a parking space (for automobiles, minivans, 15 passenger vans and pick-up trucks) in the same lot or garage for the entire convention and will have in and out privileges.
- ?? School buses will need to use the bus lot at the Indianapolis Zoo. It is recommended that convention participants be dropped off on South Street, south of the convention center, prior to parking the bus.

If you are staying in a downtown hotel, you will have the option of using hotel parking and will need to arrange that directly through the hotel.

Additional parking information is available at http://www.ffa.org/indymove/html/move_parking.html

Getting Around Indy –“FFA Way” and Shuttles

The easiest, safest, and most direct route between the convention arena (Conseco Fieldhouse) and the Indiana Convention Center (career show, shopping mall, Finals Hall, and other events) will be “**FFA Way.**” Half of George Street will be cordoned off for pedestrian use. Be alert to vehicular traffic sharing the street.

Shuttles will be available between the Indiana Convention Center and the State Fairgrounds (CDEs), Indianapolis Zoo (bus parking) and several hotel campuses. Be sure to check with your hotel desk to determine shuttle pick-up and drop off locations and schedule. **Shuttle passes for the entire convention can be purchased through online convention registration.** All convention shuttles will pick-up and drop off on Maryland Street, located on the north side of the convention center.

Free shuttle service will be provided Wednesday and Thursday to transport FFA attendees to and from the Indiana Convention Center and the Indiana State Fairgrounds for Career Development Events and photos.

More information is available at http://www.ffa.org/indymove/html/move_travel.htm

Career Development Events

If there are any changes in the Career Development Event team registration, this must be done on a National Add/Delete form (*through the state office*) by **October 11th**. Changes after that time can still be made, **if necessary**, but they must be made on-site at the National Convention and will require your membership roster as well as a signed CDE waiver. By now, you should have received your CDE Team Orientation

Packets and Schedule of Events. This information, as well as Superintendents Notes, is also available at http://www.ffa.org/convention/html/pln_cde.html .

All CDE photos and 10 CDEs will take place at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. It is recommended that once at the fairgrounds for a CDE your team stay there for all activities, including meals.

Dress

Official dress is required at all sessions for the 79th National Convention. It is important to maintain the professional, positive image that FFA has earned. Proper official dress lends members a unique identity. Refer to the Official FFA Manual for a complete description of official dress.

Casual clothing needs to be selected for the trip with attention given to presenting the proper image for New Jersey FFA and the school district you are representing.

School Officials Experience

Trying to get your administrators, counselors, and board members connected? Bring them as a chaperone and then have them attend the School Official's Experience planned for Friday, October 27. Find out more at http://www.ffa.org/convention/documents/conv_soe.pdf

National FFA Day of Service

Through the recommendations of the National FFA Delegate body, a National FFA Day of Service will be held as a new National Convention feature. The goal of this event is to promote civic engagement and service learning for FFA members. This event will be held on Thursday, October 26. Registration can be completed online. Four service options are available and described at http://www.ffa.org/convention/html/event_dayofsrve.htm.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 877-AgEd FFA.



National Convention - Experience It!

“The New Jersey FFA Association is a resource and support organization that does not select, control or supervise local chapter or individual member activities except as expressly provided for in the state FFA constitution, bylaws or policies.”